## **Consumer Advisory Board**

**Biographies** 





**Chair, Leigh Phillips** is the President & CEO of SaverLife, a national nonprofit fintech helping working families achieve prosperity through savings. Since joining in 2015, Leigh has transformed the organization from a local direct service provider to a leading financial technology nonprofit. Today, SaverLife directly reaches over 270,000 clients across all 50 states and provides white-label savings solutions to employers, credit unions, nonprofits and other partners.

Prior to joining SaverLife, Leigh was the founding Director of the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment, spending over ten years in City Hall. Under Leigh's leadership, the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment spearheaded several first in the nation programs to increase financial inclusion, such

as Bank On San Francisco, the first municipally led effort to bank the unbanked and Kindergarten to College, the first universal and automatic college savings program for public school children.

On the national level, Leigh was instrumental in the creation of the Nonprofit Leaders in Financial Technology Coalition, of which she is an active member, and the Cities for Financial Empowerment Coalition, which advocates for greater financial opportunity and protection for all Americans in cities across the United States. Leigh serves on the Board of Directors of the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and MoneyThink.

Leigh received both her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Social Sciences and a Masters of Economic and Social Sciences in Women's Studies from the University of Manchester, in her native United Kingdom.



Sharmane Andrews is the Senior Vice President and Director of Fair & Responsible Banking at Simmons Bank. In this role, Sharmane oversees Simmons' commitment to fair treatment of all clients, existing and potential, in every aspect of the credit transaction and other products and services offered. Sharmane governs enterprise wide regulatory compliance with Fair Lending Unfair. Deceptive, Abusive Acts and Practices laws. (UDAP/UDAAP), Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) data collection. Sharmane has over 17 years of banking and regulatory experience. Prior to joining Simmons, she served five years as an Associate National Bank Examiner with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) specializing in complex fair lending and CRA examinations. Prior to joining the OCC, Sharmane spent two

years as an analyst with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in HUD's Atlanta office. In this role, she worked directly with the Deputy Regional Administrator, Supervisory Operations Officer, and Regional Public Relations Officer to improve the office's transparency and the efficiency of its operations. She responded to FHA consumer complaints, oversaw activities of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and prepared American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant funding reports that helped to ensure grantees were fulfilling their responsibilities when using grant funds.

Since 2016, Sharmane has served as a Commissioner on the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission. She initially was selected for the position by the Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives. As a Commissioner, Sharmane works to reach resolution of disputes between tenants and landlords on such issues as substandard housing, compliance with HUD standards, discrimination, and other housing-related complaints. She holds a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager (CRCM) certification and graduated from Georgia State University with two Bachelor of Business Administration degrees: one in Accounting and one in Finance.



**Lorray S. C. Brown** is the co-executive director of Michigan Statewide Advocacy Services (MSAS), a statewide advocacy program that provides services to Michigan's low-income residents, Michigan's immigrant communities, and seniors. MSAS administers the Michigan Poverty Law Program, the Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Project, the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, the Michigan Elder Justice Initiative, and the Michigan Legal Help Program. Ms. Brown has been the managing attorney and the statewide consumer law specialist for the Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP) since 2001. She has also directed the Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Project since 2009. In her role as the statewide consumer law and foreclosure specialist, she has provided litigation, advocacy and case consultation support for cases involving foreclosure prevention,

anti-predatory lending, debt collection, payday loans, garnishment and student loans. Ms. Brown has conducted numerous trainings concerning consumer law, predatory lending, foreclosures, and mortgage servicing. She has also presented at national conferences.

In the summer of 2008, Ms. Brown worked at the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) in Boston as a consumer law fellow. She is the recipient of the National Consumer Law Center's 2015 Vern Countryman Consumer Law Award and the Michigan State Bar Foundation's 2018 Access to Justice Award. Ms. Brown holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Louis Caditz-Peck** is Director of Public Policy at LendingClub, the leading digital marketplace bank in the US. LendingClub has facilitated more than \$65 billion in loans and saved consumers billions of dollars by helping refinance expensive credit card and auto loans into lower rates. Louis joined LendingClub in 2013 to launch its small business lending program, drawing on his background in CDFI small business lending at Self-Help. LendingClub's program has served over 10,000 small businesses and seen 5x the representation of minority-owned firms when compared to conventional bank lending. The program has grown into an award-winning partnership with the CDFI Accion Opportunity Fund that combines the complementary strengths of fintechs and community development financial institutions.

In response to the rise of predatory small business lending, Louis brought together fintech, advocacy, and CDFI allies to co-found the Responsible Business Lending Coalition (RBLC). Together, RBLC has generated a wave of new small business financial protection laws across the country, based on the RBLC's Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights. Louis also co-founded the American Fintech Council and Marketplace Lending Association to support pro-consumer innovation in fintech.

Louis serves on the boards of the Woodstock Institute and the California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO). He holds a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and attended the MBA program at UC Berkeley.



**Stephanie Carroll** is the Directing Attorney of the Consumer Rights and Economic Justice project at Public Counsel, the nation's largest public interest law firm, specializing in delivering pro bono legal services to low-income communities and communities of color. Steph has litigated individual and class consumer matters in state and federal court in California since 2011. Her civil litigation practice has encompassed predatory lending, wrongful foreclosure, quiet title, elder abuse, hospital dumping, procedural due process, criminal justice debt and anti-trust cases. Steph oversees the provision of direct consumer and bankruptcy legal services to many hundreds of clients each year in matters including debt collection, student loans, auto financing, foreclosure prevention and access to credit. Her team has also provided direct services and litigation

assistance to hundreds of clients with Property Assessed Clean Energy financing matters. Steph has become a leading advocate on PACE policy issues in California and has led advocate trainings on PACE at the national level.

Steph is a founding member of the California Low Income Consumer Coalition and has worked extensively on legislative campaigns to rein in mortgage servicing abuses, debt buyer bad practices, and predatory lending. She also convenes the Southern California Advocates for Consumer Justice Group which fosters collaboration among its legal service provider members and conducts consumer law training. Steph is a long-time board member of the California Reinvestment Coalition, an organization focused on building an inclusive and fair economy that meets the needs of communities of color and low-income communities by ensuring that banks and other corporations invest and conduct business in a just and equitable manner.

Prior to moving to the United States in 2008, Steph was a barrister in London. Before that, Steph had a career in international development for many years and worked in various counties including Kenya, Tanzania, Kosovo, Slovakia and Pakistan. She also has a Master's in Public Policy from The Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.



**David Ehrich** is Co-founder and Executive Director of AIR the Alliance for Innovative Regulation, a non-profit working at the intersection of technology, innovation and regulation, and is working toward a digitally-native redesign of the regulatory system. At AIR, David leads the creation of thought leadership, designs education programs for regulators on emerging technologies, and produces regulatory TechSprints as a tool to decrease the cycle time of innovation and help disparate stakeholders collaborate across sometimes siloed disciplines.

David has worked in banking and payments for over 20 years, including McKinsey, American Express where he was a GM in the prepaid group, and JPMorgan Chase where he was the head of credit card strategy. David was the National Lead for BankOn and the architect of the Bank On National Account Standards for

bank accounts with no overdraft fees, and he is a Co-Founder of Petal, a NYC-based fintech credit card startup pioneering the use of cash flow underwriting for consumers who lack a history of credit.

David has served on several nonprofit boards, he is a fintech advisor and investor, and he is currently a member of the Marketplace Partner Advisory group for the Financial Clinic and the A-Team Insight Advisory Board. David has an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, and a BS from Cornell University.



**Laurie Goodman** is the Founder and Co-director of the Housing Finance Policy Center at the Urban Institute. The center provides policymakers with data-driven analyses of housing finance policy issues that they can depend on for relevance, accuracy, and independence. Laurie brings more than four decades of experience in analyzing mortgage market data and deep knowledge of how to quantify the costs and benefits of various policy options. Much of her recent research in mortgage finance has been focused on policies that could responsibly increase access to mortgage credit, as well as policies to improve the effectiveness of programs aimed at mortgage borrowers in distress. Before joining Urban in 2013, Goodman spent 30 years as an analyst and research department manager on Wall Street. From 2008 to 2013, she was a senior managing director at

Amherst Securities Group, LP, a boutique broker/dealer specializing in securitized products, where her strategy effort became known for its analysis of housing policy issues. From 1993 to 2008, Goodman was head of global fixed income research and manager of US securitized products research at UBS and predecessor firms. Prior to that, she held research and portfolio management positions at several other Wall Street firms; she began her career as a senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Goodman was inducted into the Fixed Income Analysts Hall of Fame in 2009.

Laurie serves on the board of directors of MFA Financial, Arch Capital Group Ltd., Home Point Capital Inc., and DBRS Inc, and is a consultant to The Amherst Group. She has published more than 200 journal articles and has co-authored and co-edited five books. Laurie has a BA in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania and an AM and PhD in economics from Stanford University.



**Mae Watson Grote** Mae Watson Grote is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Change Machine, formerly The Financial Clinic. Mae is a leading national expert on financial security and creating public interest and pro-poor financial technology.

Mae founded Change Machine - one of the nation's first nonprofits dedicated to building financial security - as a volunteer-run local service organization to what has become a national social enterprise. The nation's first random control trial evaluation of financial coaching, commissioned by the CFPB and conducted by the Urban Institute, demonstrated unprecedented causal effects of Change Machine's model.

As an inaugural member of the New York Federal Reserve

Board's Community Advisory Group, Mae advises the New York Fed president on socioeconomic and financial conditions faced by communities in the Second District. She is also a cofounder of Nonprofit Leaders in Financial Technology (nLIFT), a leadership group dedicated to advancing the field at the intersection of technology and financial inclusion.

Prior to establishing Change Machine, Mae was with a national nonprofit research and policy organization researching the effectiveness of work supports. Her career-defining experience was at the Legal Aid Society where she advocated for public assistance recipients to avoid sanctions and maximize budgets. Mae received a B.A. from Rutgers University and a J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law.



**Margaret Libby** is the CEO and Founder of MyPath, a national nonprofit that promotes upward economic mobility for lowincome BIPOC youth. Since its founding in January 2007, Margaret has led a national effort to demonstrate the effectiveness of integrating banking, saving and credit-building access and education into youth employment settings. In partnership with youth, Margaret launched MyPath Savings, the nation's first model to integrate banking, saving and peer support directly into youth employment settings, and MyPath Credit, the nation's first youth-focused credit-building model. The models and best practices emerging from MyPath's groundbreaking work have been adopted in cities across the country inside nonprofits, financial institutions, public agencies and municipalities.

In 2020, Margaret launched the MyPath Wealth Equity Lab, a growing ecosystem of volunteers, partners, and thought leaders who are innovating new approaches to building fintech by and for BIPOC young adults, as well as piloting and advancing new economic strategies like guaranteed income and financial mentoring. The Wealth Equity Lab is giving young leaders the opportunity

to combine their stories with data insights to advocate for local and federal policy change that will advance financial and economic inclusion for BIPOC youth. Through the recently released Youth Economic Bill of Rights, designed in partnership with BIPOC young adults, Margaret is working to advance state and federal policy solutions to build the economic and financial footholds that BIPOC youth need to challenge systemic barriers, achieve their potential, and unleash their talents and voices in our economy and democracy.

Prior to founding MyPath, Margaret led a statewide youth-led research and evaluation project while at Youth Leadership Institute and engaged in research and advocacy related to inequities in the subprime mortgage market while at California Reinvestment Coalition. A 2020 James Irvine Leadership Awardee, Margaret currently serves on the Credit Builders Alliance Board of Directors, the NEFE Board of Trustees and is a founding member of nLIFT (Nonprofit Leaders in Financial Technology). Margaret has published extensively on youth leadership development, youth financial capability, community development and predatory lending. She holds a BA from Brown University and an MSW from U.C. Berkeley.



**Andy Navarrete** is the Executive Vice President of External Affairs for Capital One Financial Corporation. External Affairs is comprised of Capital One's Government and Policy Affairs Group, Regulatory Relations, Community Impact and Investment, Corporate Communications, Community Finance, and CRA Strategy teams, as well as the Company's corporate philanthropy and foundation activities. In this capacity, Mr. Navarrete oversees Capital One's strategic and supervisory engagements with federal and state regulatory agencies and legislators and leads the Company's engagement in the communities that we serve.

Mr. Navarrete joined Capital One in 1999 and has served as Chief Counsel for each of the Company's major business units (including Card, Commercial and Retail Banking, Mortgage,

Auto and Digital). He also led the Legal Department's team of corporate and consumer bank regulatory attorneys, its Legal Management team and served as Assistant Corporate Secretary.

Prior to joining Capital One, Mr. Navarrete was an attorney with the law firm of Morgan Lewis in Washington, DC. Mr. Navarrete began his legal career in the International Section of the Legal Division of the Federal Reserve Board. Prior to law school, Mr. Navarrete worked for the House Banking Committee and as a federal relations specialist for APCO Associates.

Mr. Navarrete serves as an Adjunct Professor of Banking Law at Georgetown University Law School. He received his J.D. from Boston College and his undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary.



**Beverly Brown Ruggia** is the Financial Justice Program Director for New Jersey Citizen Action (NJCA), a statewide grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to social, economic and racial justice.

Since 2011, Beverly has been NJCA's advocate and organizer working to enforce and strengthen the Community Reinvestment Act. She leads NJCA's advocacy for state and federal consumer finance protections, regulatory reforms and policies that prevent unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices in banking, all forms of lending and in debt collection.

Beverly represents NJCA in the multi-state anti-payday lending coalition, known as "Paydayfreelandia." She oversaw a 2016 campaign to divest \$86 million of New Jersey's state pension

dollars from an equity firm that owned a payday company fined for illegal debt collection practices. Beverly leads a state financial justice table, which works to combat predatory lending and predatory debt collection. In 2019, the table successfully campaigned to enact one of the nation's strongest student loan servicing oversight bills and to establish an office for a Student Loan Ombudsman in New Jersey.

Beverly staffs NJCA's efforts to establish a state public bank in New Jersey. She is a frequent speaker at national conferences and is member of the Student Borrower Protection Center's Advisory Board and of the Consumer Federation of America's (CFA) Board of Directors. She received the Esther Peterson Consumer Service Award from CFA in 2019.



**Faith Schwartz** founded Housing Finance Strategies in 2016 to leverage her decades of industry leadership and mortgage experience to modernize the housing finance system. Her work and passion for building out the future of mortgage finance includes advisory services, board memberships and strategy roles in growing organizations. Housing Finance Strategies clients include publicly traded financial services firms, trade associations, Fintechs and non-profits. Schwartz also advises a Los Angeles, CA based real estate Development Company which owns more than 30 multifamily properties, offering housing and social services for the homeless in the state of California.

In times of crisis, Faith has been sought out to create nonpartisan solutions for challenging issues. Over the last 10

months Faith has spearheaded the development and roll-out of the NOT OK? THAT'S OK COVID-19 mortgage forbearance borrower awareness campaign. This ongoing initiative includes more than 50 mortgage servicers and over 100 housing counselors. Similarly, in 2008, government, industry and trade associations rallied around Faith'S HOPE NOW alliance that saved millions of American families from losing their homes to foreclosure. Throughout her leadership of HOPE NOW, Schwartz testified before Congress, the Federal Reserve and was a frequent spokesperson on TV, Radio and in print media. In the nation's most perilous housing crisis, Faith drove opposing interests to reasonable consensus and created the framework for today's suite of loss mitigation activities.

Thematic centerpieces of Faith's current work include entreating private capital tools and strategies for the mortgage process of tomorrow while fostering diverse and inclusive business practices for women executives.

Through service on the FormFree® board, Faith offers strategic insight on leading asset, income and employment verification services that leverage authentic source data to transform and streamline mortgage origination. Similarly, on the board of Class Valuation, Faith is working with federal agencies, government insurers, rating agencies and private mortgage insurers on appraisal innovation though authentic source data collected via 3D Scanning.

Concurrently, and in an effort to promote and mentor women executives in housing policy and mortgage, Schwartz co-founded two national events to share intelligence, networking and legislative and regulatory knowledge. In 2019 and 2020, Schwartz partnered with NEXT Mortgage Events and delivered what many industry commentators called the most successful housing events for women leaders in the nation's capital. This year, Faith is leading #HousingDC21 on September 20-21 in a virtual setting and featuring Washington, DC regulators, legislators, trade associations, rating agencies, mortgage companies, innovative technology firms and political analysts who will weigh in on the Biden Administration's actions to-date and 2022 plans for housing policy. Importantly, this year's housing policy conference will benefit the Washington, DC based Women in Housing & Finance Foundation.

Earlier in her career, Faith held leadership roles at TMC mortgage, CoreLogic, Freddie Mac, H&R Block and Option One. She started her career at Dominion Bancshares Mortgage Company as Vice President of Capital Markets and Wholesale Lending.

Today, Schwartz sits on the following Boards: Gateway First Bank, RiskSpan, Inc., FormFree®, Class Valuation and FundingShield, LLC. Faith is also a Trustee to Saint Anselm's Abbey School in Washington DC. Notably, Faith received the Housing Wire Vanguard award in 2018 and was recognized as one of Mortgage Banking's most powerful women from National Mortgage Magazine 2018. Other awards include Housing Wire's Women of Influence in 2012, a leadership star award from the Financial Services Roundtable for leading HOPE NOW and a lifetime achievement award from the Five Star Institute.

Faith holds a BSBA in Accounting from Shippensburg State College and an MBA with a Finance concentration from the University of Pittsburgh. She lives in Austin, TX and Washington, DC with her husband and three children.



**Ky Tran-Trong** is Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Global Regulatory Affairs in the Legal Department for Visa Inc. He works on core payment product, emerging payments, and other payment systems issues at Visa.

Prior to joining Visa in 2011, Mr. Tran-Trong was a member of the Regulations section in the Division of Consumer and Community Affairs at the Federal Reserve Board where he was the regulatory team leader on consumer financial deposit and payment systems laws, including the Electronic Fund Transfer Act and the Truth in Savings Act. In that role, he led rulemakings under Regulation E implementing new consumer protections for prepaid cards, including the payroll and gift card rules. He also worked on the Fed's pre- and post-CARD Act credit card rulemakings, and on consumer financial privacy

issues and rulemakings under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Following his time at the Fed, Mr. Tran-Trong practiced in the Global Banking and Payment Systems group at Paul Hastings LLP, focusing on electronic payments and money transmission issues.

He is a graduate of Duke University and William and Mary Law School and received an LL.M from Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London.



**Pete Upton** is the Executive Director of Native360 Loan Fund (N360), a Certified Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and current Chairman of the Native CDFI Network (NCN). Pete is an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska; he the founding Executive Director of N360 and contributed to the organization's growth, from startup to maturity. N360 is nationally recognized, innovative Native CDFI serving three states (Nebraska, Iowa, and SE South Dakota). Pete understands the challenges of emerging Native CDFIs and credit unions, especially and understanding of the competitive landscape needed to secure financial resources to support economic development. Pete is also a graduate of the Harvard's Catalyst for Non-Profit Excellence Program.

Mr. Upton understands the challenges of serving both rural and urban areas, on reservations and off. He values strong networks and cultivates partnerships to deliver financial education and technical assistance throughout a vast service area. Mr. Upton is a powerful advocate for equal access to capital and he advocates for greater financial opportunity and protection from predatory lending practices that plague Native American communities.

Pete has served on the board directors since 2011 and serves as the presiding chairperson--- a position he was elected to by his peers in 2016. Pete was part of the grassroots development of NCN serving on the Steering Committee of NCN in 2011 and then a founding member of the Board of Directors when NCN incorporated. Under his continuing leadership NCN pivoted to a new model of doing business to establish NCN's presence with an office in Washington D.C.